

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 13, 14, 15 and 18 are amended herein. The following replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims.

Listing of the claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a back portion constructed to be secured to an exterior wall of a building;
a front portion having a plurality of sides and a face;
a middle portion having a plurality of sides, the middle portion being coupled to the back portion and the front portion at an angle such that a junction circumference is greater at the back portion than the front portion; and

wherein the front, middle, and back portions have a hole for receiving a hose bib, said hole allowing the hose bib to be inserted into the face of the front portion, through the middle and back portions, and through an opening in the exterior wall to an interior area of the building having a water supply[.]

wherein the middle portion extends along a longitudinal axis of the hose bib a greater length than the front portion or the back portion.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the back, middle, and front portions are constructed as a one-piece unit by using a mold injection process.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the back, middle, and front portions are made of a molded plastic material.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a color of at least the face of the front portion matches a brick color.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a color of at least the face of the front portion matches a mortar color.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the back portion has a plurality of screw holes to aid in securing the back portion to the exterior wall.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the front and middle portions are constructed to allow mortar to be placed around the sides of the front portion and part of the middle portion so that a plurality of bricks can be installed flush with the face of the front portion.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the middle portion is constructed to allow an air space to be left between the plurality of bricks and the exterior wall after installation of the bricks.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the angle of the middle portion allows a mortar joint to be sized so that a plurality of bricks can be installed flush with the face of the front portion.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the front portion is constructed to allow the hose bib to be secured to the front portion.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the front portion has a plurality of screw holes to aid in securing the hose bib to the front portion.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the front portion is similar in size to a piece of brick.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hole is defined by a tube that extends through the front, middle, and back portions to serve as a guide for inserting the hose bib into the opening of the exterior wall.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the tube extends outwardly from the back portion so that [the] an outward part of the tube can be inserted into the opening of the exterior wall.

15. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

securing a hose bib containment device including a front portion, a middle portion, and a back portion to an exterior wall of a building wherein the longitudinal axis of the middle portion extends in a substantially perpendicular direction away from the exterior wall in a length greater

than the front portion or the back portion, said exterior wall having an opening extending to an interior wall for access to a water supply;

placing mortar and bricks around the hose bib containment device so that the bricks are substantially flush with a face of the front portion;

installing a hose bib through a hole in the hose bib containment device and into the opening extending to the interior wall;

securing the hose bib to the hose bib containment device; and

connecting the hose bib to the water supply.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

disconnecting the hose bib from the water supply; and

removing the hose bib from the hose bib containment device without disturbing the mortar and bricks.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the hose bib containment device is secured by inserting a plurality of screws into a plurality of screw holes located in the back portion and drilling the screws into the exterior wall.

18. (Currently amended) A construction comprising:

a hose bib containment device secured to an exterior wall of a building the hose bib
containment device including a front, middle, and back portion, wherein the longitudinal axis of

the middle portion extends away from the exterior wall in a direction substantially perpendicular to the exterior wall in a length greater than the front portion or the back portion;

bricks and mortar fixed on the exterior wall surrounding the containment device, said bricks being substantially flush with a face of the containment device; and
a hose bib extending through the containment device and through an opening in the exterior wall to an interior area of the building having a water supply.

19. (Original) The construction of claim 18, wherein the hose bib containment device is made of a molded plastic material.

20. (Original) The construction of claim 18, wherein the hose bib containment device has a back portion, a middle portion, and a front portion.

21. (Original) The construction of claim 20, wherein the front portion is similar in size to the bricks.

22. (New) An apparatus comprising:

an exterior wall of a building;
a containment device operatively coupled to said exterior wall, said containment device including a front portion having a face, a middle portion, and a back portion, wherein the middle portion extends along a longitudinal axis substantially perpendicular to said exterior wall a greater length than the front portion or the back portion;

a plurality of bricks placed around the hose bib containment device, wherein a surface of said bricks are substantially flush with the face of the front portion; wherein said bricks and said exterior wall define an air space therebetween.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the back, middle, and front portions are constructed as a one-piece unit by using a mold injection process.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the back, middle, and front portions are made of a molded plastic material.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein a color of at least the face of the front portion matches a brick color.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein a color of at least the face of the front portion matches a mortar color.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the back portion has a plurality of screw holes to aid in securing the back portion to the exterior wall.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the front portion is similar in size to one of said plurality of bricks.